

IN MEMORIAM: JULIAN R. FORD, 1932–1987

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Julian R. Ford, a Member of the AOU since 1964 and a Corresponding Fellow since 1982, died suddenly on 31 January 1987, shortly after his return from a collecting expedition to North Queensland. Born on 3 November 1932, Ford graduated from the University of Western Australia in 1953 with First Class Honours in Zoology. In 1984 he received a Ph.D. degree from his alma mater.

With his death, Australia and the world lost one of the leading experts on geographic variation and hybrid zones in birds. Over the past couple of decades, he published more than 30 papers on these topics, mostly in *The Emu*. In an era when most museums were too strapped for funds to mount major expeditions, Ford initiated series of transects through different parts of the Australian continent, which focused on unstudied or little-studied areas to analyze geographic variation with the aid of collections, recording songs, and to elucidate distributional barriers and factors limiting abundance. His analysis was comprehensive and meticulous.

Many of his publications are classics in their field, and will long remain sources of data on avian evolution in Australia.

Ford was an incisive thinker and always focused on long-term issues. Prominent in conservation bodies, he was equally intolerant of government practices (as in Queensland, of allowing grazing in national parks) and the practices of those who would deny all collecting. Conservation had to be based on understanding which, in turn, required scientific study. Prior to his death, Ford was a Senior Lecturer in Chemistry at Curtin University, Western Australia, and received many awards and research grants from the F. M. Chapman Fund in New York, the M. A. Ingram Trust in Melbourne, the Utah Foundation, and the Australian Government Research Grants scheme. Julian was a stimulating correspondent and companion. He bequeathed his extensive library and collections to the Western Australian Museum, Perth. A fuller account of his career appeared in *The Emu* (87: 132).

IN MEMORIAM: MARGARET HOWELL MITCHELL, 1901–1988

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Margaret Mitchell, Elective Member and Life Member of the AOU, died in Victoria, British Columbia, on 3 October 1988. Canada's first internationally known woman ornithologist, the daughter of Lucy Knox and George Howell, was born in Toronto, Ontario, on 28 October 1901. Hoping for a scientific career, in 1920 Peggy enrolled at the University of Toronto to study biology and geology. As in the mid-1920s paid jobs in ornithology were scarce in Canada, even for men, Peggy found employment as secretary to the head of paleontology at the Royal Ontario Museum (ROM).

At the ROM she met L. L. Snyder and J. L. Baillie Jr. After her marriage to Osborne Mitchell in 1927, she gave up her paid position in paleontology to work as a volunteer in ornithology. Her main task was the "Passenger Pigeon inquiry," resulting in a booklet (1929) and an important monograph, *The Passenger Pigeon in Ontario* (1935). Although at the ROM she had no official title, and of course no pay, Peggy Mitchell became the first woman research "affiliate" of any natural history museum in Canada.

Mitchell joined the AOU in 1928 and the Wil-